

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Saturday, the 20th March 1976/Phalgun 30, 1897 S.E.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Vidhana Soudha at Nine of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER (SMT. K. S. NAGARATHNAMMA) in the Chair.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral Answers were given)

Enhancement of Pension

113. SRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Fort).—will the Minister for Finance and Housing be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to enhance the pension of the poorer section of the retired Government servants in view of the abnormal rise in the cost of living ;

(b) whether there is any proposal before Government :

(i) to enhance the pension to those pension holders whose gratuity with interest has been recovered in full ; and

(ii) to make the minimum pension payable to retired Government servants as Rs. 40 on the analogy of the rate fixed for the old age pension ?

SRI M. Y. GHORPADE (Minister for Finance and Housing). —

(a) Government have decided to sanction with effect from 1st April 1976 a further increase in Dearness Allowance to Service and Family Pensioners equal to 10 per cent of the Pension, subject to a minimum of Rs. 10 and a maximum of Rs. 30 per month.

(b) (i) Does not arise as gratuity is not recovered from pensioners.

(ii) Even as it is, the minimum pension inclusive of D. A. is Rs. 75 per month. It will be Rs. 85 per month, from 1-4-1976.

SRI T. R. SHAMANNA.—Madam, in (b) (i) there is a mistake. Instead of gratuity it should be commutation.

I am thankful to the Government for having given assistance to the pensioners not only in the last budget but also now. But may I know what is the difference between the pension benefit that has been given by the Central Government now and what has been given by the State Government?

† SRI M. Y. GHORPADE.—This question was not contemplated; it is entirely a different question viz, a comparison between the Central Government and the State Government. However, I might mention that our pensions always compare favourably with the Central Government pensions and I might take this opportunity to mention that the minimum pension today in our state is as much as Rs 85. Hon'ble Members are aware that it was only Rs. 40 on 1.4.1970 and the amount we are spending on pensions is nearly of the order of Rs. 21 crores. There are about 1,76,883 pensioners and this includes 58,000 service pensions, 92,000 old-age pensions, 14,000 and odd family pensions, 7,800 freedom fighter's pensions and other categories. These pensioners are getting nearly Rs. 21 crores. This includes Rs. 2.54 crores for old-age pensions, Rs. 63,00,000 for freedom fighters and Rs. 17.90 for all other categories and the minimum pension is Rs. 75. We have also raised the old-age pension. The whole position is very well known. The question that Sri Shamanna attempted to ask though he has confused the issue a bit is what happens to a pensioner who has commuted his pension. Supposing a pensioner lives long enough, as known, many categories of Government pensioners are getting death-cum-retirement gratuity apart from commutation. Here also a certain lump sum amount is paid to the pensioner as soon as he retires and for the rest of his life he gets a certain pension. If he dies immediately after retirement, this amount is not recovered whether it is commuted or not. But if he lives long enough, then the argument cannot be turned and said that he has lived long enough and he should be given an enhanced pension. The principle cannot work one way. I have some satisfaction in saying that the pension scheme in Karnataka is probably one of the best in the country and compares favourably even with the Government of India pension scheme. If the Hon'ble Member wants to know what the Government of India gives to the different categories of pensioner I can furnish this information whenever he requires it.

† Asterisks indicate that remarks or speeches have not been revised by the member concerned.

SRI T. R. SHAMANNA.—I am thankful to the Hon'ble Minister for having enumerated the various benefits that have been given. I have received some representations from many pensioners stating that they are getting less than Rs. 40; some of them are getting, I am told even Rs. 27.50. If such cases are brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister, will he kindly see that they get adequate relief?

SRI M Y GHORPADE.—If such cases are brought to my notice, I will consider.

Assistance by Social Welfare Department in Dharwar District

187. **SRI B. G. BANAKAR (Hirekerur).**—will the Minister for Rural Development and Social Welfare be pleased to state:—

(a) the total amount of grant of assistance given and spent in Dharwar District by the Social Welfare Department; talukwise during 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the amount given by the Government is not properly spent and supervised by Social Welfare Inspector, Block Development Officers and the District Social Welfare Officers in Dharwar District;

(c) the total amount, out of the amount allotted to the Social Welfare Department lapsed or surrendered;

(d) the total amount sanctioned by the Social Welfare Department is held or kept in the taluk Development Board in Dharwar District, without spending the same during the years 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75?

SRI N. RACHAIAH (Minister for Rural Development and Social Welfare).—

(a) *Vide Statement appended.*

(b) No.

(c) —

| Year | Amount allotted | Amount surrendered |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1972-73 | 8,33,573 | 93,329 |
| 1973-74 | 10,96,930 | 72,010 |
| 1974-75 | 8,64,022 | — |

(Upto end of November 1974)

(d) Only a sum of Rs. 5000-00 sanctioned for construction of a Community Centre Building at Annigere in Navalgund Taluk during 1972-73 is credited to Taluk Development Board account as it could not be spent immediately due to non availability of site. Now the work is entrusted to Town Municipal Council and is under progress.